

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

10 piastres, and a like sum was given to each coolie in advance. The

total of 36 piastres for every worker, before he even got to the plantation, rose after 1926. It represented a big investment for planters—that of 7,000,000 francs for a plantation importing 10,000 coolies. The

planter who got labour from an adjacent commune had no such expense. Such an outlay means that the employer is going to take no of having his coolies decamp—which they do at the slightest

pretext. Hence he must regard as desertion any mildly prolonged absence from the plantation, for it may jeopardize the whole enterprise's success.

Desertions are not caused exclusively by bad treatment or nostalgia.

There is a certain natural resentment of native peoples at having to cultivate their soil for foreign usurpers. Also, a series of accidents

can a superstitious belief that the spirits are hostile to an undertaking, and this is enough to make a hundred coolies take flight weralgfat. Cham ruins, coming to light during one canal dredging,

the immediate withdrawal of all the workers. Self-mutilation

is a current Anuamite device for ceasing to work. It may be motivated

by vengeance, or fear, or plain laziness. Then they often claim that it

by a brutal employer. Gaming is a native weakness that

so its victims in debt or in dispute that their only recourse

is to Or may be lured from one plantation to another*

This has to be a regular profession, and a planter who has

Haportibg his labour may one day find that a Ms coolies away. Such losses of workers have in 1927 three thousand workers deserted.

The of *n the heavy traffic in identity cards make

was the Governor who, after Sarraut, left Ms
mark on Indo-

He filled in the gaps by creating a general
of recruiting formalities, and more
protection
for the *m* to accidents, and
repatriation.

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antagonized the
irate at tfae higher price of labour in
tftb it to wiadh, government
regulations

But they were most seriously offended
by die were their coolies
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general

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